# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

QUINSTREET, INC.,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v. EPICREALM LICENSING, LP,	) ) )	Civil Action No.
Defendant.	) ) )	

## **COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**

Plaintiff QuinStreet, Inc. ("QuinStreet") for its complaint against Defendant epicRealm Licensing, LP ("epicRealm"), alleges as follows:

#### THE PARTIES

- Plaintiff QuinStreet, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, having its principal place of business located at Foster City, California 94404.
- 2. Defendant epicRealm is a limited partnership organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having its principal place of business at 558 S. Central Expressway, Richardson, Texas 75080-6126.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This is a complaint for declaratory relief under the patent laws of the United States. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), 2201(a) and 2202.

- 4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over epicRealm by virtue of its organization under the laws of the State of Delaware.
- 5. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), (c) and 1400(b).

## THE EPICREALM PATENTS

- 6. U.S. Patent No. 5,894,554 (the "554 patent") issued on April 13, 1999 and is entitled "System for Managing Dynamic Web Page Generation Requests by Intercepting Request at Web Server and Routing to Page Server Thereby Releasing Web Server to Process Other Requests."
- 7. U.S. Patent No. 6,415,335 (the "335 patent") issued on July 2, 2002 from a division of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/636,477, now the '554 patent, and is entitled "System and Method for Managing Dynamic Web Page Generation Requests."
- 8. epicRealm asserts that it is the owner and assignee of the '554 and '335 patents (the "epicRealm patents") and has the right to enforce the epicRealm patents against QuinStreet.

  Copies of the epicRealm patents are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B.

### EPICREALM'S PATENT INFRINGEMENT LAWSUITS

9. On April 15, 2005, epicRealm, then known as epicRealm Licensing, LLC, filed a patent infringement complaint in the District Court for the Eastern District of Texas (Marshall Division) accusing defendant Speedera Networks, Inc. of infringing the epicRealm patents "by making and using network infrastructures that manage dynamic Web page generation requests that infringe one or more of the claims set forth in the epicRealm patents". That action was assigned Civil Action No. 2:05-CV-150DF (the "Speedera action") and was originally assigned to United States District Court Judge David Folsom. This case has been resolved by settlement.

- 10. On May 2, 2005, epicRealm, then known as epicRealm Licensing, LLC, filed a patent infringement complaint in the District Court for the Eastern District of Texas (Marshall Division) accusing defendants Autoflex Leasing, Inc., eHarmony.com, Inc., Friendfinder Network, Inc., Grande Communication Networks, Inc., IJL-NCP, LLC and Transplace Texas, LP of infringing the epicRealm patents. That action was assigned Civil Action No. 2:05-CV-163 (the "163 action") and was originally assigned to United States District Court Judge T. John Ward. On June 10, 2005, epicRealm filed a First Amended Complaint in the '163 action.
- On August 5, 2005, epicRealm filed a patent infringement complaint in the District Court for the Eastern District of Texas (Marshall Division) accusing defendants Franklin Covey Co., Clark Consulting, Inc., The Macerich Company, Safelite Group, Inc., Herbalife International of America, Inc. and Pink Sheets, LLC of infringing the epicRealm patents. That action was assigned Civil Action Number 2:05-CV-356 (the "356 action") and was originally assigned to United States District Court Judge T. John Ward. On November 2, 2005, epicRealm filed a First Amended Complaint in the '356 action.
- 12. On November 2, 2005, Judge Ward consolidated the '163 and '356 actions (the "Consolidated epicRealm Actions").
- 13. On November 9, 2005 and November 16, 2005 the Consolidated epicRealm Actions were reassigned to United States District Judge David Folsom.
- On January 27, 2006, epicRealm filed a Second Amended Complaint in the Consolidated epicRealm Actions accusing defendants Autoflex Leasing, Inc., eHarmony.com, Inc., Friendfinder Network, Inc., Grande Communications Networks, Inc., Transplace Texas, LP, Franklin Covey Co., Clark Consulting, Inc., Macerich Company, Safelite Group, Inc., Herbalife International of America, Inc. and Pink Sheets, LLC of infringing the epicRealm patents.

# EPICREALM'S PATENT INFRINGEMENT ACCUSATIONS AND OUINSTREET'S REASONABLE APPREHENSION OF SUIT

- 15. In its Second Amended Complaint, epicRealm alleges that the named defendants infringe the epicRealm patents because they use systems and methods for managing requests for dynamic web pages falling within the claims of its patents.
- 16. QuinStreet operates systems for responding to requests for static and dynamic web pages and maintains hosting platforms for customers. QuinStreet has entered into web site hosting agreements with many customers.
- 17. Herbalife International of America, Inc. ("Herbalife"), a defendant in the '356 action, is one such customer of QuinStreet.
- 18. Herbalife has asserted that its agreement with QuinStreet entitles it to a defense and indemnification from QuinStreet if it is accused of infringing a third party's intellectual property rights, and Herbalife has demanded that QuinStreet agree to defend and indemnify Herbalife from any and all claims asserted by epicRealm.
- In the '356 action epicRealm contends that its patents must be broadly construed to cover virtually all systems and methods wherein dynamic web page requests are intercepted at a web server or other HTTP-compliant device and transferred to page server software capable of processing dynamic web pages. According to epicRealm, "[w]eb servers, caching servers, and layer-7 switches are types of HTTP-compliant devices. Web requests are initially evaluated by the HTTP-compliant device. The requests for dynamic content ... are transferred to the page server(s) (or application server, servlet container or software, etc) such as Tomcat, J-Boss, and/or Resin for processing." Per epicRealm, any system and method incorporating these or similar elements, along with releasing of the HTTP-compliant device to concurrently process other requests, violates its patents.

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- 20. In correspondence to Clark Consulting Inc. ("Clark"), a defendant in the '356 action, epicRealm confirmed this position and advised that its contentions of patent infringement were not confined to any particular web site software or architecture, and asserted that other systems or methods employing server software "could, if used to generate web pages with dynamic content, be configured in a way that would infringe the claims of the epicRealm patents." The January 25, 2006 letter from epicRealm to Clark (the "epicRealm Letter") is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- QuinStreet employs several systems and methods for dynamic web page generation wherein dynamic web page requests are transferred from a web server to other server software for processing that would fall within the ambit of the claims of epicRealm's patents as those are interpreted by epicRealm. In the '356 action epicRealm is requiring Herbalife to provide discovery disclosures to epicRealm regarding QuinStreet's use of its server software for generating web pages.
- 22. One of QuinStreet's customers which is not a party to any litigation brought by epicRealm has informed QuinStreet that in view of the '356 action, it is canceling its contract with QuinStreet pursuant to which QuinStreet provides it dynamic web page generating services.
- 23. epicRealm's patent infringement allegations in the Speedera action and in the Consolidated epicRealm Actions against Herbalife and others, its very broad interpretation of the reach of its patents' claims as exemplified in its infringement contentions and the epicRealm Letter, and epicRealm's demand for discovery of QuinStreet information from Herbalife cause QuinStreet to have a reasonable apprehension that (1) epicRealm will accuse QuinStreet, QuinStreet's products and/or QuinStreet's customers of infringing one or more claims of the epicRealm patents, and/or (2) additional QuinStreet customers will seek from or sue QuinStreet

for indemnity as a result of epicRealm's patent infringement claims; and/or (3) additional QuinStreet customers will seek to terminate their contracts with QuinStreet in view of the '356, the '163, and the Speedera actions or other subsequent claims by epicRealm that systems similar to those hosted by QuinStreet infringe epicRealm's patents.

# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Declaratory Judgment of Noninfringement of the epicRealm Patents)

- 24. QuinStreet incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 25. By virtue of epicRealm's patent infringement allegations in the Speedera action and in the Consolidated epicRealm Actions against Herbalife and others, the epicRealm Letter, epicRealm's demand for discovery of QuinStreet information from Herbalife, and the actual loss of business by QuinStreet due to a customer's patent infringement concerns and the reasonable apprehension of additional such losses, an actual controversy exists between QuinStreet and epicRealm as to whether QuinStreet, QuinStreet's products and/or one or more QuinStreet customers infringe the epicRealm patents.
- QuinStreet has not infringed and does not infringe, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, either directly, indirectly or willfully, any valid and enforceable claim of the epicRealm patents.
- 27. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, a judicial determination of the respective rights of the parties with respect to QuinStreet's noninfringement of the epicRealm patents is necessary and appropriate under the circumstances.

# SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Declaratory Judgment of Invalidity of the epicRealm Patents)

- 28. QuinStreet incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 27 above.
- By virtue of epicRealm's patent infringement allegations in the Speedera action and in the Consolidated epicRealm Actions against Herbalife and others, the epicRealm Letter,

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epicRealm's demand for discovery of QuinStreet information from Herbalife, and the actual loss of business by QuinStreet due to a customer's patent infringement concerns and the reasonable apprehension of additional such losses, an actual controversy exists between QuinStreet and epicRealm as to the validity of the epicRealm patents.

- 30. Each claim of the epicRealm patents is invalid for failure to meet one or more of the conditions of patentability specified in 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 and/or 112.
- 31. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, a judicial determination of the respective rights of the parties with respect to the validity of the epicRealm patents is necessary and appropriate under the circumstances.

### <u>PRAYER</u>

WHEREFORE, QuinStreet requests entry of judgment in its favor and against epicRealm as follows:

- a. Declaring that QuinStreet and its software products that are used in conjunction with the delivery of dynamic web pages do not infringe, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, either directly, indirectly or willfully, any valid and enforceable claim of the epicRealm patents;
  - b. Declaring that the claims of the epicRealm patents are invalid;
- c. Decreeing this case an "exceptional case" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285 and awarding reasonable attorneys' fees to QuinStreet; and
- d. Awarding QuinStreet such other costs and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

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